

Haven Hills has helped more than 80,000 women and their children confront domestic violence during the past 22 years. When its phenomenal success required new facilities, the Gelbs stepped forward. The new building the Gelbs helped acquire will house administrative offices and support and services to many more victims of domestic violence.

Robbi and Rickey Gelb are successful business people in the California's San Fernando Valley and have a long record of community involvement. They have donated community facilities; generously support the Mid-Valley Jeopardy Foundation, which provides services and facilities for at-risk youth; and have provided wheelchairs to needy students in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Rickey Gelb serves on numerous committees and organizations dedicated to making the community better, including a committee to build a memorial and monument to honor police officers and firefighters. In addition, Rickey Gelb is a Commissioner for the City of Los Angeles, and a member of the Encino Chamber of Commerce, the L.A. Department of Transportation Mobile Action Committee and the Mayor's Job Recovery Corporation.

The Gelbs have been married for 34 years and have two grown children, Geoffrey and Lisa.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Robbi and Rickey Gelb for a lifetime of dedication to their community and for their deserved recognition from Haven Hills Inc.

IN HONOR OF THE 88TH BIRTHDAY OF PERRY COMO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the 88th birthday of Perry Como, a great entertainer and Grammy Award winner.

Perry Como was born the seventh son in a family of thirteen children on May 18, 1912 in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. He began working at the age of ten in a barbershop, sweeping and sharpening. By age fourteen, he had his own shop with two barbers working for him.

In 1933, Perry Como was encouraged by a friend to audition for a vocalist part with Freddy Carlone's Dance Band. Although he would earn less than a quarter of the income he made as a barber, Como accepted the job when he was offered the position. When he left Canonsburg to tour with the band, his girlfriend, Roselle Belline, went with him. The couple married on July 31, 1933.

Throughout the next years, Perry toured the country, first with Freddy Carlone's Band, and later with the Ted Weems Band. While performing with the Ted Weems Band in Chicago, Perry left the stage in the middle of a performance to be with his wife as she gave birth to their first child, a son named Ronnie. The Como's later adopted another son, David, and a daughter, Terri.

In 1941, Ted Weems joined the Armed Forces and his orchestra disbanded. Perry Como was offered his own nightly 15-minute

radio show for CBS in New York. This break led to a contract with RCA Victor that would begin Perry Como's recording career. Two years after signing with RCA Victor, Perry had his first major hit with Till the End of Time.

Perry Como had a series of popular hits in the forties and fifties. In 1958, he won the first Best Male Vocal Grammy award for the song *Catch a Falling Star*. His radio show, which had transferred to television in the late forties, was also successful, running from 1948–1950 as the Chesterfield Supper Club, then from 1950–59 as the Perry Como Show. From 1960 through 1963, Perry Como hosted the Kraft Music Hall.

My fellow colleagues, join with me in celebrating the notable and inspiring career of Perry Como on the momentous occasion of his 88th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO ELIAS KARMON

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to and wish a happy 90th birthday to Mr. Elias Karmon, an outstanding individual who has devoted his life to his family and to serving the community.

Mr. Karmon served as President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce for four consecutive terms after serving on its Boards since 1953 and holding the positions of Treasurer, Second Vice President and First Vice President. His dinner attendance record of 930 people at the Chamber's annual dinner in 1979, with David Rockefeller as the guest of honor, has never been equaled.

Mr. Speaker, along with Dr. Ramon S. Velez and Michael Munoz, Mr. Karmon created the South Bronx Board of Trade, an organization aiding the businesses of the borough, particularly minority-owned enterprises. Today, as honorary Chairman, he still continues his activities with the organization. As Chairman of the Building Fund Committee of the Bronx Board of Realtors, Karmon was instrumental in negotiating the purchase of its present building in 1992. Karmon is also the Chairman of the Annual Essay Contest, a contest he initiated in 1975 among students of the public and private high schools in the Bronx and in Manhattan, for the Bronx-Manhattan Association of Realtors.

A civic leader in the Bronx for 60 years, Karmon has been active in many business, civic, health, service and humanitarian organizations. To name a few, in 1949 he founded the Prospect Avenue and Neighborhood Businessmen's Association, Inc. and served as its president for 12 years. In 1954 Karmon served as Chairman of the Bronx Urban League Advisory Board, being a founding member of the Bronx Branch. His involvement with Einstein College began around 1955 with the organizational committee that brought about this College of Medicine. Karmon and his late wife, Sylvia, are members of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. One of the founders of the Ponce de Leon Federal Bank in 1959, he stills serves on the board and is presently its Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, Karmon is currently President of EMK Enterprises, Inc., a real estate firm located on Prospect Avenue Since 1904. He takes pride in never having left our beloved South Bronx. He is listed in Who's Who in American Jewry.

The business, professional, religious and civic organizations to which he has belonged and continues to belong, like the honors and awards he has received, are almost beyond counting. Few men of business of the 20th century have been so honored for so many things. Mr. Karmon is a talented leader who will continue to show us dedication, leadership, and wisdom. He is truly a source of inspiration to all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy 90th birthday to Elias Karmon.

HONORING MICHAELA K. RODENO, WOMEN FOR WINESENSE WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2000

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, Michaela Rodeno will be honored as a co-founder at the Women for WineSense 10th Anniversary Conference in Sonoma County, CA.

As a leader in the California wine industry, Michaela used her organizing and business acumen to found Women for WineSense, a national organization promoting wine as a part of a healthy, balanced lifestyle. Michaela has a long history of involvement in wine industry issues. She has served on the boards of the California Wine Institute and the Napa Valley Vintners Association. She is currently on the board of the American Vintners Association and in 1999 was elected chair of their Meritage Association.

Michaela is chief executive officer for St. Supery Vineyards and Winery in Rutherford, CA. Michaela dedicates her personal and professional talents to local charities, the arts and women's support organizations. In 1998, she chaired the Napa Valley Wine Auction, the largest grossing wine auction in the United States, raising a record \$3.8 million. She speaks at professional conferences around the world to promote the wine and tourism industries of the Napa Valley as well as conferences that promote and foster women's success in the business sector.

Ten years ago, Michaela founded the premier worldwide grassroots organization for women interested in wine. Women for WineSense continues to serve as a moderate, non-biased, non-profit educational and promotional organization to ensure all women and men have accurate information on the cultural, social, and health effects of moderate wine consumption.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor an industry visionary and community leader. Michaela Rodeno's professional and civic dedication has encouraged and supported many individuals in our community and beyond. I join the other members of Women for WineSense in honoring Michaela K. Rodeno as co-founder and Woman of the Year 2000.